

Literacy Screener F.A.Q.

The AK Reads Act requires the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) to provide a literacy screener to all districts in Alaska for use in Kindergarten to grade 3. DEED is proud to announce Amplify's mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition is the state-adopted literacy screener. It will be free for Alaska public school districts to use for grades Kindergarten through fifth grade.

General

Are districts required to use mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition?

Districts are not required to use the state-adopted literacy screener, mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition; however, the AK Reads Act does require districts to utilize an evidence-based reading screening tool, approved by the state.

Where do we acquire a literacy screener waiver?

The literacy screener waiver is currently in draft form. It can be found on the AK Reads Act webpage, <https://education.alaska.gov/akreads>

Will DEED cover the cost of an approved literacy screener other than mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition?

If a district chooses to use a literacy screener other than the state-sponsored mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition and has obtained an approved waiver, the district is responsible for all costs associated with the literacy screener of their choosing.

Will there be an option for mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition to be used in grades other than K-3?

DEED is providing the use of mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition for use K-5. Districts have the option to explore the usage of mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition in grades outside of K-5; however, districts will be responsible for any additional costs.

Can a school adopt mCLASS individually?

No, per the AK Reads Act, selecting a state-approved literacy screener is a district-level decision.

Are charter schools and homeschools required to use a literacy screener?

If the district employing a homeschool or correspondence program receives state funds, it must comply with the Reads Act. DEED will work with the administrators in charge of those programs to assist them in meeting the requirements of the Reads Act.

For DEED to consider approving a “district selected screening tool” per the waiver process, would that K-3 literacy screener need to have a dyslexia screener as part of that product or can a district have a separate K-3 literacy screener and a separate K-3 dyslexia screener?

If a district completes a waiver to use its own literacy screener, it must have a dyslexia screener as part of the requirements for approval.

How will data be reported to DEED?

Districts that choose to use mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition will automatically have their data reported to DEED. Those districts that operate on a state-approved literacy screener waiver will have the added responsibility to report required data to DEED.

Benchmark & Progress Monitoring

Where can I find the benchmark windows?

DEED is currently working on the Assessment calendar. Please check the Assessment webpage for updates.

<https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/general-assessment-information>

Who is able to administer benchmark and progress monitoring measures?

Literacy screening tools shall be administered by district staff who have taken the minimum training deemed appropriate by the state and the vendor and provide training documentation to DEED. All assessors should also follow the vendor’s specific guidelines and recommendations for valid implementation.

What measures are used for the dyslexia screener?

The dyslexia screener is to be administered to students whose Composite score is Well Below Benchmark. The Rapid Automatized Naming (RAN) measure is to be administered in Kindergarten, and the Spelling measure is to be administered in grades 1-3.

Will the dyslexia screener allow educators to diagnose dyslexia? Or will it simply indicate a risk level for dyslexia?

The dyslexia screener will indicate the risk level. Further assessment(s) would be required to diagnose dyslexia.

What percentile bands make up the colored levels?

The mCLASS program information guide can be found at the following link.

https://amplify.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/mCLASS_ProgramGuide_01_22-1-1.pdf

Does mCLASS color code percentiles?

Information about percentiles can be found in this reporting guide at the following link.
https://amplify.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/mCLASS_ReportingGuide_012522-1.pdf

Is Progress Monitoring available for students whose skills are below grade level proficiency?

Yes, information about off-grade progress monitoring can be found at the following link.
https://mclass.amplify.com/wgenhelp/md8e/index.htm?rscsh=1#t=Off-Grade_Progress_Monitoring.htm

How many progress monitoring probes are available?

There are 20 forms available for each of the measures except for MAZE, which has ten forms. MAZE is not recommended to be given as frequently.

Technology

What kind of device is needed for mCLASS?

mCLASS can be administered on tablets, computers, or paper/pencil. Device recommendations can be found at the following link.
<https://amplify.com/customer-requirements/>

Is the data exportable to a csv, excel file, and Google sheet?

Yes, all data is exportable into CSV or PDF and can be uploaded to Google.

Professional Development

What training is available for mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition?

All staff administering the assessment or reviewing student data should be trained on the assessment mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition.

- New staff or new to mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition staff are required to attend a 6-hour Initial Training provided by Amplify or approved ToT Trainers.
- All staff should receive back-to-school refresher training, which is located within the mCLASS account Training tab.
- Each district is given the opportunity to participate in a Training of Trainers. Trainers who successfully complete the course will be approved to train new and returning staff on mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition for their district.
- District leadership is provided with an Understanding Your Data training.

Enrollment

Can student accounts be integrated with Clever, ClassLink, or other similar products?

Yes, Amplify will work with your district during the enrollment process.